is closest to said micro-mover, and wherein said one or more stator electrodes protrude from the same flat, continuous plane on said stator wafer surface;

one or more actuator electrodes protruding from a section of a micro-mover surface, wherein said section of said micro-mover surface is a substantially flat, continuous plane that is closest to said stator wafer and wherein said one or more actuator electrodes protrude from the same flat, continuous plane on said micro-mover surface; and

one or more bumpers positioned on said stator wafer surface or said micro-mover surface or both surfaces, wherein the number of the bumpers on each surface is equal to, or smaller than, the number of electrodes on the same surface.

2. (Amended) The actuator of claim 1, wherein said one or more bumpers protrude from said stator wafer surface.

4. (Amended) The actuator of claim 2, wherein said one or more bumpers protrude from said stator wafer surface at least twice as much as said one or more stator electrodes.

5. (Amended) The actuator of claim 1, wherein said one or more bumpers protrude from said micro-mover surface.

7. (Amended) The actuator of claim 5, wherein the one or more bumpers protrude from said micro-mover surface at least twice as far as said one or more actuator electrodes.

8. (Amended) The actuator of claim 1, wherein said one or more bumpers comprise at least one of a metal and a dielectric.

Please add new claim 21 as follows:

21. (New) The actuator of claim 1, wherein one or more bumpers are positioned on both said stator wafer surface and said micro-mover surface.

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)/103(a) over Japanese Patent No. 08-051786 to Narita et al. ("Narita"). In the earlier filed Request for Reconsideration, Applicant respectfully traversed the rejections based on the fact that Narita shows receding electrodes while the instant claims recite protruding electrodes. During the personal interview, the Examiner indicated that the electrodes in Narita, although formed at the bottom of the grooves, may be construed as protruding from a surface of the armature. Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to better define the protruding nature of the electrodes. Dependent claims 2, 4, 5, 7 and 8 have also been amended to be consistent with the amended claim 1. Dependent claim 21 has been added. Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 21 are patentable for the reasons provided with respect